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Alumni Committee of the Montana University System for Referendum 64

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11-2-66

Alumni Committee of the Montana University System for Referendum 64
Alumni Center
Missoula, 59801

More than \$12,500,000 will be needed by the Montana Department of Institutions for construction and maintenance of custodial institutions in the next biennium, according to Floyd A. Green, the director. And, according to Hugh Edwards, executive secretary of the University of Montana Alumni Association, this is another good and pressing reason why voters should be in favor of Referendum 64 on election day.

"The amounts which Mr. Green has proposed for maintenance and new construction at the custodial institutions isn't designed to take care of these buildings for all time," Edwards said. "Even if the next session of the Legislature appropriates the money which the department needs, there is still vitally needed construction that will have to be undertaken within the next few years. Revenues from the tobacco tax can help underwrite the bond issues that will be necessary to make these improvements," he said.

Among the institutions that would benefit from passage of Referendum 64 would be the Montana Children's Center, Montana Center for the Aged, State Industrial School, Montana Veterans' Home, State Hospital, State Prison, State Training School, State Pulmonary Disease Hospital, Vocational School for Girls and the Swan River Youth Forest Camp.

Citing just one element of the proposed budget for the coming biennium, Edwards noted that the Montana Soldiers Home at Columbia Falls has two principal buildings that are more than 60 years old. In the most recent land and building report by the office of the State Budget Director, the old Main Hall, built in 1896, was listed in poor condition, and the Women's Building built in 1904, was listed as only fair. According to Edwards, "This means they're about ready to fall down."